

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
TACOMA DIVISION

RICHARD L.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,

Defendant.

Civil No. 3:19-cv-05570-DWC

ORDER REVERSING AND REMANDING
DEFENDANT'S DECISION TO DENY
BENEFITS

Based on the stipulation of the parties, it is hereby ORDERED that the above-captioned case be REVERSED and REMANDED for further administrative proceedings pursuant to sentence four of 42 U.S.C. § 405(g). On remand, the Appeals Council will instruct the Administrative Law Judge to offer Plaintiff the opportunity for a *de novo* hearing; further evaluate the 2019 opinion from Paul Gray, MA, LMHC; obtain updated evidence from a medical

1 expert regarding the nature and severity of Plaintiff's mental impairments; further evaluate
2 Plaintiff's substance use, if appropriate; and issue a new decision.

3 Upon proper application, the Court will consider whether reasonable attorney fees should
4 be awarded pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).
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6 DATED this 12th day of December, 2019.

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9 David W. Christel
10 United States Magistrate Judge

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13 Presented by:

14 s/ Lisa Goldoftas
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